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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A communications device connected to a network with a client communications device and a destination address modification device modifying a destination address of data transmitted from the client communications device to an address of another communications device, comprising:

a ~~transmitting and receiving unit receiving communications data with a destination address modified by the destination address modification device and transmitting response data in response to the communications data; and;~~

a source address modification unit modifying a source address of the response data in response to the communications data with the destination address modified by the destination address modification device, to an address of a communication device that is an original destination; and

a transmitting unit transmitting the response data, with the source address modified by the source address modification unit to the address of the communication device that is the original destination, directly to the client communications device without passing the response data through the destination address modification device.

2. (previously presented) The communications device according to claim 1, wherein:

the communications device comprises an acquisition unit obtaining destination address modification information transmitted from the destination address modification device; and

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the source address modification unit modifies the source address of the response data to the address of the communication device that is the original destination, based on the destination address modification information obtained by the acquisition unit.

3. (withdrawn from consideration) The communications device according to claim 1 wherein:

the communication device comprises a request unit requesting the destination address modification device to transmit destination address modification information of the communications data; and wherein

the source address modification unit modifies the source address of the response data to the address of the communication device that is the original destination, based on the destination address modification information transmitted from the destination address modification device.

4. (original) The communications device according to claim 1, further comprising:

a plurality of communications processing units; and

a sorting unit assigning a process to the relevant communications processing unit of the plurality of communications processing units based on identification information added to the communications data.

5. (original) The communications device according to claim 4, wherein said sorting unit assigns a process to the relevant communications processing unit of the plurality of

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communications processing units based on information designated by a communications port included in the communications data.

6. (currently amended) An address modification device connected to a network with a communications device, comprising:

a transmitting and receiving unit receiving communications data with a destination address modified and transmitting response data in response to the communications data;

a destination address modification unit modifying ~~a~~ the destination address of the communications data transmitted from the communications device to an address of another communications device; and

a modification unit modifying a source address of the response data in response to the communications data with the destination address modified by the destination address modification unit, to an address of a communication device that is an original destination and transmitting address modification information to a communications device with a modified address, wherein

the communications device with the modified address transmits the response data, with the source address modified by the source address modification unit to the address of the communication device that is the original destination, directly to a client communications device without passing the response data through the address modification device.

7. (previously presented) The address modification device of claims 6, wherein:

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the modification unit transmits address modification information of the communications data to the relevant communications device when receiving a send request for the address modification information.

8. (previously presented) The address modification device according to claim 6, wherein said modification unit transmits information indicating the destination address before modification as modification information.

9. (previously presented) The address modification device according to claim 6, wherein said modification unit adds information indicating the destination address before modification to a data section of the communications data and transmits the data.

10. (currently amended) A communications method in a network comprised of a destination address modification device and a plurality of communications devices, comprising: the steps of:

receiving communications data with a destination address modified by the destination address modification device;

~~transmitting response data in response to the communication data; and~~

modifying a source address of the response data in response to the communications data ~~transmission~~ with the destination address modified by the destination address modification device, to an address of a communications device that is an original destination; and

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transmitting the response data, with the source address modified in the source address modifying step to the address of the communication device that is the original destination, directly to a client communications device without passing the response data through the destination address modification device.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 10 further comprising the steps of requesting the destination address modification device to transmit address modification information; and

receiving the destination address modification information from the destination address modification device and modifying a source address of data in response to communications data with an address modified by the destination address modification device base on the address modification information.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 10 further comprising the steps of: modifying a source address of response data to the source of the communications data with an destination address modified by the destination address modification device based on the modification information.

13. (currently amended) A computer-readable communications control program performing control of communications in a network comprised of a destination address modification device and a plurality of communications devices to enable a computer to implement functions, the functions comprising:

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receiving communications data with a destination address modified by the destination address modification device;

~~transmitting response data in response to the communications data; and~~

modifying a source address of the response data to the communications data ~~transmission~~ with the destination address modified by the destination address modification device to an address of a communications device that is an original destination; and

transmitting the response data, with the source address modified in the source address modifying step to the address of the communication device that is the original destination, directly to a client communications device without passing the response data through the destination address modification device.

14. (withdrawn from consideration) The computer-readable communications control program of claim 13 further comprising the functions of:

requesting the destination address modification device to transmit address modification information; and

modifying a source address of response to the source of the communications data with the destination address modified by the destination modification device based on modification information.

15. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium which stores a program for enabling a computer to implement functions, the functions comprising:

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receiving communications data with a destination address modified by a destination address modification device;

~~transmitting response data in response to the communications data; and~~

modifying a source address of the response data to the communications data ~~transmission~~ with the destination address modified by the destination address modification device to an address of a communications device that is an original destination; and

transmitting the response data, with the source address modified by the source address modification unit to the address of the communication device that is the original destination, directly to a client communications device without passing the response data through the destination address modification device.

16. (currently amended) A communications system in which an address modification device for modifying an address of communications data received from another communications device and a plurality of communications devices for transmitting and receiving data in response to the communications data with a modified address are connected through a network, comprising:

an address modification device, further comprising:

a ~~transmitting and receiving~~ unit receiving communications data with a destination address ~~modified and transmitting response data in response to the~~ communications data;

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a destination address modification unit modifying an address of the communications data, ~~and each of a plurality of communications devices~~ to an address of another communications device, ~~wherein, and~~
at least one of the plurality of communications devices includes:

a source address modification unit modifying a source address of ~~the~~ response data to ~~the~~ an address of ~~the~~ a communication device that is ~~the~~ an original destination based on ~~the~~ destination address modification information transmitted from the ~~destination address modification device; and~~

a transmitting unit transmitting the response data, with the source address modified by the source address modification unit to the address of the communication device that is the original destination, directly to a client communications device without passing the response data through the address modification device.

17. (currently amended) A communications system in which an address modification device for modifying an address of communications data received from another communications device and a plurality of communications devices for transmitting and receiving data in response to the communications data with a modified address are connected through a network, comprising:

an address modification device, comprising:

~~a transmitting and receiving unit receiving communications data with a destination address modified and transmitting response data in response to the communications data;~~

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a destination address modification unit modifying a destination address of the communications data transmitted from the communications device to an address of another communications device; and

a modification unit modifying a source address of the response data in response to the communications data with the destination address modified by the destination address modification unit, to an address of a communication device that is an original destination and transmitting address modification information to a communications device with a modified address, and

each of a plurality of communications devices, comprising:

an acquisition unit obtaining destination address modification information transmitted from the ~~destination~~ address modification device; and

a source address modification unit modifying a source address of the response data to the address of the communication device that is the original destination, based on the destination address modification information obtained by the acquisition unit; and

a transmitting unit transmitting the response data with the source address modified by the source address modification unit to the address of the communication device that is the original destination, directly to the client communications device without passing the response data through the address modification device.

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